Sea-Piracy by Pakistan

*47. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing sea-piracy by the Pakistanis near Gujarat Coast, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 330 fishermen were hijacked during the last three years by the Pakistanis;

(c) what action is contemplated by Government to curb this Pakistani activity and protect our fishermen; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that many of the hijacked Indian fishermen are presently illegally detained in Pakistan jails; if so, what action is proposed to be taken to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) There has indeed been an increase in apprehension of Indian fishing vessels by Pakistan near the Gujarat Coast. While prior to January, 1987, such apprehensions were negligible, since then as many as 38 Indian fishing vessels alongwith 321 fishermen have been apprehended.

(c) Government are intensifying patrolling off the Gujarat Coast and taking steps to enter into negotiations with the Government of Pakistan for the delineation of the Indo-Pakistan maritime boundary.

(d) Government have from time to time been taking up the release of Indian fishermen with the Government of Pakistan. To date 11 boats and 119 fishermen have been released by Pakistan. During the Indo-Pakistan bilateral talks held on this issue on 10—11 February 1988, it was agreed that all fishing vessels and crewy captured by both countries since 1-10-1986 would be released within about 60 days.

Working conditions of Air Force Canteen Employees

*48. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the decisions taken at the meeting of the review committee held on the 23rd December, 1986 to improve the working conditions of Air Force canteen employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that canteen employees are giving only 90 per cent of the basic pay admissible to the Central Government employees in the corresponding scales as recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission and also only 90 per cent of CCA and HRA; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that the Air Force canteen employees are not paid the pay as admissible to Central Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A statement indicating the decisions taken in this meeting is placed on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Air Force Canteen employees are not Central Government employees. Hence, they are not entitled to the pay and allowances admissible to Central Government employees.

Statement

(a) *Revision of Pay and Allowances:* All permanent canteen employees will be given 90 per cent of the basic